

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03857 111845Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /095 W
-----081123 111851Z /41

P R 111823Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2197
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3857

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, ECIN, EFIN, ETRD, PEPR, PINT, NU, CS
SUBJ: COSTA RICAN REACTION TO NICARAGUAN BORDER CLOSURE

REF: SAN JOSE 3512

1. LATEST CLOSURE OF NICARAGUAN-COSTA RICAN BORDER SEPTEMBER 10 (IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REOPENED SEPTEMBER 11). HAS HEIGHTENED CONCERN WITHIN GOCR AND COSTA RICAN PRIVATE SECTOR OVER ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR COSTA RICA OF NICARAGUAN SITUATION. PREVIOUS BORDER CLOSURES AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN TRANSPORTING GOODS THROUGH NICARAGUA EARLIER HAD CAUSED GOCR AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO BEGIN STUDY OF FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A "BYPASS" CABOTAGE SERVICE FROM COSTA RICA TO EL SALVADOR (SEE REFTEL). DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER MONTEALEGRE CALLED LATE SEPTEMBER 9 AND INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HE, VICE PRESIDENT ALFARO, AND OLFECON ALTMANN WERE IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO ESTABLISH ALTERNATIVE SHIPPING ROUTES/ PROGRAMS FOR COSTA RICAN EXPORTS/IMPORTS TO CACM. GOCR HAD CALLED FOR EMERGENCY MEETING WITH AFFECTED PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11 AND THUS MONTEALEGRE WISHED TO EXPLORE WHETHER USG COULD MAKE AIR (C-130'S) OR SEA TRANSPORT AVAILABLE TO
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MEET SITUATION. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE CONCERN TO WASHINGTON, BUT THAT BARRING SPECIFIC EMERGENCY AFFECTING LIFE OR LIMB, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE USG COULD OFFER ANY DIRECT HELP. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT WE WOULD ASK DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE IMMEDIATELY SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVES OR OTHER POSSIBILITIES. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADVICE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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